



Proudly serving the United States servicemembers of Joint Task Force-Bravo

# The Iguana



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## JTF-Bravo members provide disaster relief

By Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn  
Public Affairs Superintendent

“Progress Through Unity” is a slogan and the hallmark of Joint Task Force-Bravo, and the task force demonstrated its progress Nov. 3 in a combined forces training exercise in the storm stricken region of northern Honduras.

Twenty-two members from a variety of Soto Cano agencies boarded two CH-47 Chinook helicopters and headed north for San Pedro Sula. Once there, task force members married up with Honduran military and U.S. Agency for International Development officials — and 28,000 pounds of relief supplies.

With daylight slowly melting away, the newly formed team unloaded three trucks into the two helicopters with much needed supplies destined for the municipalities of Yoro and Morazan.

Purified water, beans, nutritional supplement packages, bread, and milk were on the day’s menu, with rolls of plastic sheeting for temporary shelter repairs rounding out the shipment’s inventory.

Flying through drizzling rain, over river drainages and mountain ridges to the remote municipalities was completed in a short 20-minute airlift that was impossible by ground transportation due to Hurricane Michelle’s damage to roads and bridges.

Upon landing in a soccer field in Morazan, it appeared the whole town gathered to greet the visitors. Ringing the helicopter were more than a thousand town residents, some of whom were enlisted to form a human chain to off-load the aircraft.

Despite the relentless rain that preceded the visit for nearly a week, there was not a cloudy face in the crowd. Local law enforcement maintained the crowd a safe distance from the whirling helicopter blades as more than



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn

Local nationals unload food and other supplies from a CH-47 Chinook. Supplies were sent to the northern Honduran municipalities of Yoro and Morazan as relief for damage done by Hurricane Michelle.

See Relief, Page 7

### CFC

The base as a whole is nearly 100 percent contacted with more than four weeks left to give to the program. Total contributions: \$5061.00

**ARFOR** — 100 percent contacted \$1,485 in contributions.

**MEDEL** — 100 percent contacted, \$3012 in contributions

**J-Staff** — 100 percent contacted, \$564 in contributions

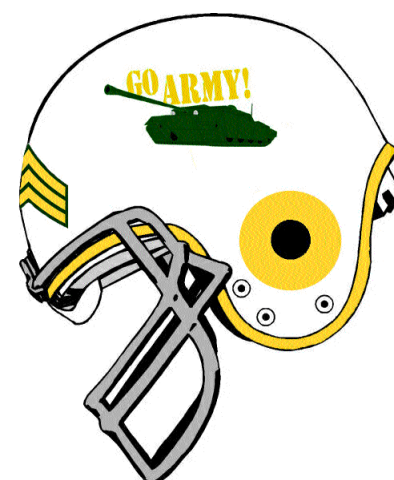
**1-228th** — Nearly 100 percent contact, contributions need to be tallied



The Turkey BOWL

Are you ready...?

The annual Air Force vs. Army football game, known as the Turkey Bowl, will be held Nov. 21 at the soccer field starting at 8 a.m. Players are currently needed for both teams. If you’re interested in playing, contact MWR at ext. 4458. Pre-game, half time and post-game activities and raffles will be available for everyone, so even if you don’t play, come and support your service team.



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Pro wrestlers tear up Soto Cano Page 8



## Commanders Corner

### Cheney thanks vets at Arlington ceremony

By Jim Garamore

American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Va. — Vice President Dick Cheney said the service members of today can take as examples a long line of American veterans who have defended freedom around the world.

Cheney, who represented George Bush at the Presidential Wreath Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns, said every veteran has contributed to the advance of this nation and the advance of human freedom.

"Every veteran has earned this nation's permanent gratitude," he said.

Even as Americans remember veterans, a new war rages. "In this new century, war has come to us," Cheney said. "The terrorists who attacked this country have declared themselves the mortal enemies of the United States and will be dealt with as such."

He told the crowd in the Memorial Amphitheater that Americans have no illusions about the difficulties that lie ahead.

"We cannot predict the length or the course of the conflict," he said. "But we know with absolute certainty that this nation will persevere and we will prevail."

Cheney said today's service members "have the complete confidence of the commander in chief and the respect of the entire nation."

The vice president said that since the founding of the Republic, 48 million Americans have served in the armed forces. About 25 million of those veterans are alive today, including 2,000 who were on active duty Nov. 11, 1918, when the Armistice ending World War I took effect.

He said Arlington contains the graves of many veterans who served the country through long lives. "Here, too, are many thousands who never lived to be called veterans, from our Civil War to the attack on the Pentagon two months ago today," he said.

"On Veterans Day, we remember the fallen and show our respect to those still among us — the veterans we know as our friends, neighbors relatives and colleagues."

He said veterans remember their military service as being one of their defining experiences. "The military drew out the best that was in them, instilling the highest standards of diligence, discipline and loyalty," he said. "That is a bond joining every veteran from every branch of service."

He said Americans owe their way of life to the nation's veterans, especially those of World War II. He quoted a woman who spoke of the influence of her father, an Army Air Forces vet of World War II.

"Honesty, integrity, hard work, personal responsibility and perseverance were all around me and I absorbed them almost imperceptibly."

"Her parents' generation had a similar effect on the entire nation, and our sense of gratitude to that generation only deepens with the years," Cheney continued.

He said the tools of conflict have changed even since the end of the Vietnam War. Smart bombs, stealth technology, laser range finders and the associated technologies have changed war.

"Yet our most basic military asset has not changed at all: It is the character, the daring and the resourcefulness of those who do the fighting," he said. "No matter how complicated war might be, it always comes down to the ones who fly the planes, man the ships and carry the rifles."



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## Chaplain's Corner

### Character forms essence of true heroes

By Chaplain (Col.) John Blair

Air Education and Training Command chaplain

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — As I reflect upon the Sept. 11 attacks on our great country, I have to ask: what intangibles do we possess to carry us through this terrible crisis? What provides us with our courage, strength, faith and resolve? What makes us who we are?

The answer is our character.

Character can be described in many different ways, but there is one person who brings it into focus for me: Rocky Blier. Blier was a halfback for the Pittsburgh Steelers and is a living legend. Each time he ran, a miracle unfolded before your eyes.

Blier was a monument to courage and character. Professional football scouts tagged him as follows: "Can't win in the NFL with this kid," "Is not capable of playing professional football" and "I don't think this man can make a pro club."

However, Blier was selected 417 out of 441 football players drafted in the NFL in 1968. The Steelers picked 18 players and Blier was the 18th. He was the

only one of the 18 who made it in pro football.

Blier was drafted into the Army that same year and later had a foot, leg and thigh severely injured during combat in the Vietnam War. He was separated from the Army with 40 percent disability.

After returning from Vietnam, Blier attended the Steelers' training camp.

Despite the odds being stacked against him, due to his injured leg and time away from the game, Blier had non-physical skills working in his favor. One coach called it heart, another courage, and a third suggested character.

Character is that intangible force that retrieves shattered dreams and deflated hopes.

Blier's fortitude to persevere embodies the words of Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Pick the biography of any man or woman who has made a lasting contribution to humanity. Some were extremely brilliant while others were courageous.

But one characteristic will be present in every case: character. Every person who achieves greatness possesses it. Character is what Dr. George Sheehan, in his

book "Running and Being," refers to when he writes, "I have character which is simply the decision to stand pain."

He further states, "Some think of character as sprinting at the end of a race, but character is what gets you there to begin with. Character starts back in the hills with six miles still to go and you are thinking of how you can get out of it without anyone noticing. Character begins when you have 40 minutes of torture left and you're already hurting more than you ever remember."

Character is also what Sheehan calls the "wall" — the psychological breaking point that comes at the 20-mile mark of a 26-mile marathon.

The wall is where the runner begins to fall apart.

From the wall, the runner goes it all alone.

We have all been witnesses to many courageous acts during the past few weeks by people we can only classify as true heroes. So many displayed character and gave their lives in order to save others.

I challenge you to reflect on the true greatness of our (Armed Forces). Remember, America cannot be measured by its productivity or national resources, but only by its character.

# Get postally ready for upcoming holiday season

**By Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn**  
Public Affairs Superintendent

Santa Claus may have a time-proven method of getting goodies around the world in one night, but for those of us at Soto Cano we rely solely on the big eagle — the U.S. Postal Service.

With the upcoming holiday season, and in light of world events there are some twists to the normal overseas mailing procedures that servicemembers here and folks back home need to observe so those Christmas confections and holiday heartwarmings arrive on time. Time is of the essence for folks sending packages from the states. To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages to all military APO and FPO addresses, the postal service recommends space-available mail should be posted by Nov. 27; and priority mail, first-class cards, and letters should be posted by Dec. 11.

For that Honduran-crafted wood box that mom is getting, Soto Cano servicemembers need to get it in the mail soon also, as the same timelines apply for getting goods to the United States.

So for Aunt Lucy to get her tropical fruit basket on time, it should be in the mail before deadline ... What?

No fruit baskets? Not in the U.S. mail. Mailing restrictions prohibit shipments of coffee, firearms, raw fruits, meats, alcohol, and living plants according to Soto Cano Postal Clerk, Tech. Sgt. Scott Evans. Remember, who enforces the rules doesn't make them — so be kind to our postal clerks.

Evans also wanted to remind postal patrons to prepare customs slips for all packages and advised there is no registered mail or express mail available to Soto Cano members — for inbound or outbound items.

Be prepared for long lines, as many servicemembers' packages will be processed through the next six weeks.

With the mailing community up in arms over the anthrax issue, there are precautions that the Military Postal Service Agency has recommended to prevent your priceless package from being intercepted by high-tech powder sniffers employed to detect potential problem parcels.

Postal service officials recommend people in the United States or overseas not send powders in their packages, as any powder may trigger an alarm activation. The packages will be detained and the best-case scenario is they will be delivered late.

Another advisory is sending electric toys with the batteries installed. If they could turn on and buzz, vi-

brate, tick or otherwise make noises, they will justifiably cause suspicion and detention.

Evans offered the following tips to make the mailing process a little easier and prevent delays at the post office or problems with the packages:

- The post office accepts cash only, no checks or credit cards
- The post office can cash postal money orders if there is enough cash on hand
- Packing material can be purchased at the BX
- The BX may have some empty packing boxes for first-come, first-serve patrons
- Expect long lines, and avoid the peak times at lunch and after work
- Ensure return addresses are on packages, they must match custom slip addresses
- No masking tape or Scotch tape to wrap packages
- Souvenir machetes: In a leather sheath and wrapped securely
- Don't call to ask, "Is the mail posted yet?" as this delays the postal clerk's duties

The post office is always looking for volunteers to help sort and pitch mail. Servicemembers who would like to give some assistance during the holiday season can give Evans a call to schedule a time for the 30-minute training session.

## Election shows democracy Honduran style

**By 1st Lt. Richard Komurek**  
Public Affairs Director

Democracy is in action throughout Honduras as the nation prepares to choose a new president Nov. 25. While this may not seem like a big deal for Americans, an election takes on a different significance in a region where military dictatorships used to be the norm just two decades ago. The election is a special time not only for Hondurans, but for JTF-Bravo personnel as well. JTF-Bravo members can be proud about being part of a task force has been a supporter of democracy in the Central America since 1982 and the upcoming election offers a unique opportunity to gain a greater understanding about the country of Honduras and its people.

Don't have a clue about Honduran politics? Here's some basic information about the history of Honduran democracy, the political parties and the current presidential candidates that will help make some sense of it all.

### History of Honduran democracy

Though Honduras has been a republic since 1821 it has had a history of military rule and political instability. From the beginnings of democracy that sprouted from a coup in 1957 to the full transfer of power from the military to civilian rule and free elections in 1981, Honduras experienced decades of military regimes and was threatened by revolutions and civil wars in neighboring countries. Democracy in Honduras is based upon a constitution that was created in 1980 which states that Honduras has three branches of government:

- A president, elected for a four-year term and not subject to re-election
- A 128 member unicameral congress elected to a four-year term
- An independent judiciary headed by a nine-member supreme court elected for a four-year term by congress

In addition, since 1994 Honduras also had a semi-autonomous public ministry headed by an attorney general who is elected by congress to a five-year term. The public ministry handles most public prosecutions including corruption and abuse of public authority.

### The political parties

Like the United States, two parties dominate Honduran politics. According to 1st Lt. Scott Fedak, deputy director of intelligence, the ruling Liberal Party is much like America's Democratic Party and the National Party is like the Republican Party. Since 1980, the liberals have won all national elections except the election of 1989, which was won by the National Party.

The current president, Carlos Roberto Flores, is a member of the Liberal Party and has been in office since 1998. In the current election there are also candidates from Leftist Democratic Unification Party, the Innovation and Social Democratic Union and the Christian Democrats. These parties are minority parties and generally do not get a high percentage of votes.

### The candidates

The two main contenders for the Honduran presidency are Rafael Pineda Ponce of the ruling Liberal Party and Ricardo Maduro of the National Party.

Ponce is a 70-year-old teacher who is the president of congress and his rival Maduro is a 55-year-old businessman who was born in Panama but is a Honduran citizen through his grandmother.

Maduro has support from the business community and conservatives and is expected to be tough on crime because his son was kidnapped and killed, said Fedak. Ponce's campaign stresses social programs and employment opportunities for youths, he said. The main political issues are the economy, crime and education.

So who will win, the schoolteacher politician or the young, conservative businessman? Watch the local TV news or scan the local headlines to find out after the Nov. 25 election. In the meantime, ask Honduran friends or co-workers about their opinions and learn about life outside the gates of Soto Cano.

Servicemembers likely find that even when it comes to politics, Hondurans and Americans have more things in common than are uncommon and that the issues that concern us and our families are the same ones shared by our friends and neighbors throughout Central America.

*(Editors note: Information gathered from U.S. Embassy in Honduras and State Department Web sites.)*

## Civil affairs helps local orphanage

The forty-four orphans at the nearby Guadalupe Orphanage are going to have a happier Christmas this year thanks to the eight enlisted soldiers from the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion in Perrine, Fla. who visited Soto Cano from Oct. 9 to Nov. 4.

The soldiers made daily visits to the orphanage and provided light to a half-dozen rooms by installing light fixtures, repairing wiring, and installing light switches. In addition, soldiers painted rooms, performed outside and inside trash removal, fixed plumbing problems, repaired roof leaks, and provided fan ventilation to the dining area.

Sgt. 1st Class Adonis Sanchez, team sergeant, said Sgt. Carlos Garcia of Miami spearheaded the efforts at the orphanage. "Garcia served on an earlier rotation at Soto Cano this year and visited the orphanage. When he returned to our unit he took up a collection among unit members to buy supplies and repair items for the kids at the orphanage," Sanchez said.

Garcia commented, "Sgt. Juan Robles brought his electrical knowledge to the site and provided lighting, ventilation to the dining area and switches for the children to use."

Staff Sgts. Darrel Camble and Charles Lawrence installed poles in cement and put up lines for clothes drying.

"There is still plenty of needs at the orphanage. The kids appreciate soldiers visiting them and playing with them. Anyone who has any experience in construction can make a difference at the orphanage," Garcia said.



# SAR Team to the rescue



Story and photos by Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn  
*Public Affairs Superintendent*

Some folks got more than a coffee-kick start to their day Nov. 6 as an early morning major accident response exercise involving Soto Cano servicemembers recalled many soldiers and airmen to their work centers.

According to the J3 planning and operations scenario, the exercise was to have a helicopter reported missing and to have Soto Cano command and control, aviation, search and rescue, medical, and security personnel launch into action for the rescue and recovery. The twist on this exercise was the unknown remoteness of the playing ground as it was more than 20 minutes away by air.

After the exercise started, everyone moved into high gear and rescue efforts were launched. The search began and concluded rapidly despite increased cloud cover and

weather that threatened rain. Arriving aviators and search and rescue team member landed near the accident site and quickly began their trained duties. Rapid patient assessment and treatment, area sweeps to locate missing victims, site security, and setting up on-site command and control were the orders of the day.

Medical evacuation started quickly after patient triage and care began. Multiple flights brought out additional support personnel and transported exercise victims for treatment at the medical element.

While the exercise was meant to evaluate crash location, medical treatment, patient evacuation, and security control measures; many other items were tested including communication, home-based support functions and simple items — like who brought the water for an extended operation.

This realistic exercise gave more than an evaluation as many members commented on how the exercise validated procedures and identified items that more simple exercises just couldn't test. In all the operation was a success.





Pfc. Jammin Smith of Joint Security Forces secured the helicopter exercise crash scene against potential hostile forces. Exercising security is a primary task in remote areas to protect personnel and guard against theft.



Two medical element medics worked together to save an exercise casualty. Staff Sgt. Paul Vargas, who radioed patient status and coordinated evacuation, while Spc. Ricky Baxter gathered vital-sign information on an exercise casualty that suffered from a severe chest wound.



Taking the lead, Staff Sgt. Douglas Smith of ARFOR with the help of Sgt. Jonathan Wentlandt of 1-228th, evacuate a casualty of the crashed-aircraft exercise. Rescuers moved victims over rough terrain and shoulder-high grass more than 200 yards to the medical evacuation helicopter.



Photo Courtesy of Air Force Link News

### Commander's trophy ...

Air Force Academy linebacker Jon Highley forces Army running back Josh Holdon to fumble during the first half of the annual Army vs Air Force game Nov. 3 in Colorado Springs Colo. Air Force defenders killed three Army first-half drives by forcing turnovers. Air Force went on to defeat Army 34-24 and retain the Commander in Chief's Trophy.

## PERSTEMPO will be tracked

By Joe Burlas  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army will continue to track individual deployment days, even though special high-deployment per diem has been suspended.

An Oct. 8 Department of Defense memorandum directed the services to continue tracking deployment days when it suspended the requirement to pay \$100 a day to soldiers deployed more than 400 days in a rolling 730-day window.

"I want to dispel the misconception that the Army will no longer track PERSTEMPO deployment days," said Maj. Denise McCann, PERSTEMPO action officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. "That misconception is out there because of the incorrect wording of a newspaper article that stated the services are no longer required to track deployment days with PERSTEMPO."

"The continued tracking of PERSTEMPO data is important because the PERSTEMPO Web-based application is the Army's only individual deployment database," McCann said. "That database can be very valuable in developing after-action reports to

see just how many soldiers it took to accomplish a specific mission or operation."

When the national emergency is over, McCann said, the PERSTEMPO per diem waiver will be lifted. She said an inter-service PERSTEMPO committee is considering the specifics of how the deployment-day counter will be reinstated. Currently the law states that the deployed days were counted for management purposes out of a 365-day rolling window and for payment purposes out of a 730-day rolling window.

The suspension could be lifted sooner if Rep. Cynthia McKinney has her way. A member of the House Armed Services Committee from Georgia, McKinney introduced a bill on Oct. 23 to remove the PERSTEMPO suspension authority. While the proposed bill has been introduced, a hearing on it has yet to be scheduled, said Eric Lausten, a legislative assistant to McKinney.

Soldiers' November Leave and Earnings Statement will reflect the suspension of the PERSTEMPO clock with the following in the remarks section: "Effective 8 October 2001 the accumulation of deployment days for purposes of determining high deployment per diem is suspended."

## DOD suggests alternatives to letter writing campaigns

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense officials are suggesting new ways for Americans to show support for servicemembers deployed overseas.

The initiatives provide alternatives to traditional letter-writing campaign which were suspended because of attacks on America. DOD officials suggest Americans support the troops by helping the communities in which they live.

For example, people can visit a Veterans Administration hospital or nursing home on behalf of servicemembers who normally would visit but are now deployed or otherwise occupied with their duties.

Many servicemembers volunteer to coach children's teams, feed the homeless and aid their communities in a variety of other ways. Interested Americans can show their support and honor their military by stepping in to assist in these programs.

Although many towns do not have a military base nearby, military recruiters are stationed nearly everywhere. Local governments and chambers of commerce are encouraged to reach out to these local members of the military, invite them to speak at community events and encourage members of the community to learn more about America's military. Members of a community who know families with a deployed servicemember might want to offer their support by reaching out to those families

while their loved ones are deployed.

A number of private organizations are developing Web-based methods for Americans to show support. While donations of food and gifts for delivery overseas can no longer be accepted, interested Americans might contribute instead to military relief societies.

These suggestions are in response to the suspension of the "Any Service Member" mail program for operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. Military postal officials will not be implementing a similar program for Operation Enduring Freedom. Operation Dear Abby, a morale booster for servicemembers overseas for more than 17 years also has been suspended.

Servicemembers value and appreciate expressions of support from the American people, and these and other mail programs have been a significant boost to morale. However, recent mail-related attacks have resulted in additional precautions and safety concerns for servicemembers.

The increased manpower required to ensure safe mail handling coupled with the increased volume of mail that letter-writing campaigns generate could exceed capabilities, and therefore cannot be supported at this time.

Normal mail delivery addressed by name to individual servicemembers will continue uninterrupted.

(Courtesy of Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

## Enlisted promotions won't be affected

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is taking steps to ensure promotions to the ranks of staff sergeant, master sergeant and chief master sergeant are not delayed because people are not able to attend the required enlisted professional military education courses because of current operations, personnel officials said.

"The Air Force has temporarily delegated approval authority for promotion (to the aforementioned ranks) without EMPE completion to the director of personnel at the major commands," said Air Force Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, chief of promotion, evaluation and separation policy at the Pentagon. "We are also waiving the maximum grade restrictions for those with waivers to attend PME in the higher grade."

Basically, this policy change allows commanders, on a case-by-case basis, to request a temporary defer-

ment of PME prior to pinning-on rank because of support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, Middleton said.

The MAJCOM personnel offices will be responsible for monitoring EPME completion within 12 months of sew-on or return from deployment, whichever is sooner, she said.

"Professional military education is critical to the success of our enlisted corps," said Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Carol Dockery, chief of enlisted promotion and evaluation policy at the Pentagon.

"This modification does not diminish the importance of PME. In fact, staff sergeants will not be put into a supervisory position until they have completed airman leadership school."

Middleton said she expects EPME waivers to be the exception rather than the rule.

"People granted waivers will be scheduled for EPME as soon as they are available without negatively impacting the mission," she said.



## BRIEFS

### Combat Lifesaver

Names are now being taken for individuals who wish to attend the Combat Lifesaver Course Nov. 26 through 28. If you wish to attend please e-mail Spc. Marco Estupinan or Sgt. Claudia Tress before Nov. 14. There is only room for 14 people to take the course, if interested contact immediately. Times and locations will be announced after the 14 openings are filled.

### Do You Need Help?

Do you have bugs in your rugs, lights out at 7 p.m. only you want to stay up past 9, or are raindrops falling on your head — inside your hooch? You need to give the DynCorp Help Desk a call to remedy these issues. DynCorp Help Desk at ext. 4584 is available 24-hours each day to report the ailments of issues concerning plumbing, electrical, pest, and a host of other issues dealing with your hooch or the structures on base. If you call in a job, record the job order number for following up on the work. Many items are responded to immediately if they are classed as an emergency work order. Many jobs are completed within 24 hours. If you are not satisfied with the service, contact the BCE at ext. 4143.

### ACAP seminar

An ACAP seminar is scheduled for Nov. 27, Nov. 28 and Dec 3. It will be held at the base education center. It's a three-day seminar that will help prepare servicemembers to transition out of the service. All servicemembers retiring within the next two years and those who will be separating of the service within the next year are welcome to attend. Contact 1st Lt. Mariona, ARFOR S1 at ext. 4444 to schedule you in for the seminar hosted by USARSO's ACAP office.

### Thanksgiving dinner

JTF-Bravo Thanksgiving dinner will be served Nov. 21 from noon to 2:30 p.m. at the dining facility. From noon to 12:30 p.m., the Turkey Bowl winner (ARFOR or AFFOR) eats first.

From 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., MEDEL, Joint Security Forces and DynCorp is served. From 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment and Harris is served. 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. losers eat last, AFFOR or ARFOR. Meal rates are: PCS \$4.40, TDY and others \$5.30. Casual dress required, no flip flops or shorts.

## The flag of the United States of America

By Master Sgt. Troy Edwards  
36th Maintenance Squadron

Ordinary Americans by the millions revere our flag and display it every day. We fly it in front of our businesses, in our front yards, and from balcony railing in our apartment complexes. We pin the flag on our jacket lapels and paste it to the windows of our cars and trucks. As soon as our toddlers can hold a little stick in their tiny fists, we give them Old Glory to wave at the Fourth of July parade. And at life's end, we drape the caskets of our fallen patriots with the Stars and Stripes. This proud display of, and devotion to, the symbol of our nation is uniquely American. It is how we reaffirm the fact that we are indeed "one nation," and that whatever our other differences, there are core values Americans hold in common: a belief in the dignity of the individual, a love of liberty, and a commitment to government of, for, and by the people.

The terrible atrocities that happened on September 11 have created a rebirth of patriotism that I pray will never be extinguished. These tragic events must serve as an everlasting reminder that our flag carries American ideas, American history and American feelings.

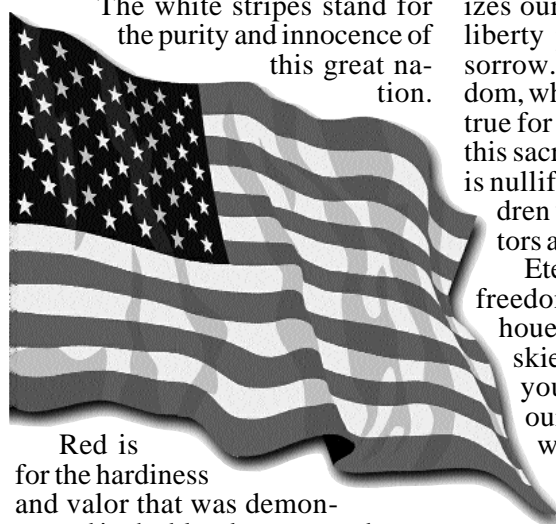
Beginning with the Continental Congress, and coming down to our time, in its sacred heraldry, in its glorious insignia, it has gathered and stored chiefly this supreme idea: divine right or liberty in man.

Every color means liberty, every thread means liberty, every form of star and beam or stripe of light means liberty—not lawlessness, but organized, institutional liberty—liberty through law, and for liberty! The American flag is the safeguard of this liberty. Not an atom of the crown was allowed to go into its insignia.

Not a symbol of authority in the

ruler was permitted to go into it. It was an ordinance of liberty by the people, for the people. That it meant, that it means, and, by the blessing of God, that it shall mean to the end of time. God grant that it may spend eternity in the "land of the free and home of the brave" and that it shall ever be known as "Old Glory," the flag of the United States of America. The colors of the United States flag symbolize the patriotic ideals and spiritual qualities of the citizens of this nation. The stripes proclaim the fearless courage and integrity of American men and boys and the self-sacrifice and devotion of American mothers and daughters.

The white stripes stand for the purity and innocence of this great nation.



Red is for the hardiness and valor that was demonstrated in the blood, sweat, and tears that were shed on battlefields, where our freedoms are preserved from tyranny. Blue is for the vigilance, perseverance and justice, the cornerstone of our foundation.

The flag represents these eternal principles: liberty, justice, and humanity. It embodies our freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, the press, and the sanctity of the home. It typifies that indomitable spirit of determination brought to this land by Christopher Columbus and our forefathers: the Pilgrims, Puritans, and settlers at Jamestown and Plymouth. It is as old as this nation. It is

a living symbol of this nation's law: the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights.

It voices Abraham Lincoln's philosophy, "A government of the people, by the people, for the people." It stands guard over our nation's schools, the seedbed of good citizenship and true patriotism. It is displayed in every schoolroom throughout this nation; every schoolyard has a flagpole for its display. Daily, thousands upon thousands of boys and girls pledge their allegiance to this country and its flag.

Americans, this flag is the sacred emblem of our country. It symbolizes our birthright, our heritage of liberty purchased with blood and sorrow. It is the title deed of freedom, which is ours to enjoy and hold true for posterity. If we fail to keep this sacred trust inviolate, if the flag is nullified and destroyed, our children will become slaves to dictators and despots.

Eternal vigilance is our price of freedom. As you see the flag silhouetted against the peaceful skies of this country, remind yourself that this is the flag of our country, that it stands for what you are—no more, no less.

Guard it well, lest your freedom perish from the earth.

Let us dedicate our lives to those principles for which it stands, "One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Please remember what Woodrow Wilson once said about our flag, "The lines of red are lines of blood, nobly and unselfishly shed by men who loved the liberty of their fellow men more than they loved their own lives and fortunes. God forbid that we should have to use the blood of America to freshen the color of the flag. But if it should ever be necessary, that flag will be colored once more, and in being colored will be glorified and purified."

## Relief

(Continued from Page 1)

16,500 pounds of food and supplies were stacked for distribution.

Nearly as quick as they came, the helicopter was soon airborne for a return trip to Soto Cano — mission accomplished. The mission left a lasting effect on servicemembers performing the mission as well.

"I felt good knowing that I was able to help the local population in their time of need," said Sgt. 1st Class Wallace Clore, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment helicopter crew chief.

"I think it also helped by showing the populace that even

though Americans are going through a lot back in the states, we can still take time to help others. I feel it helped the unity of both countries."

Echoing a similar sentiment was 1st Lt. Pablo Raggio of ARFOR, who said he was "Proud, to have led the small team of JTF-Bravo soldiers that worked as a combined team to rapidly load and unload cargo with the assistance of the air crews," Raggio continued though and said it was "sad to see the Honduran people's current situation — but happy we were making a good impact."

Valuable training and lasting memories were the benefits to the servicemembers involved in this humanitarian exercise that concluded Saturday evening. For the people of Yoro and Morazan, their exercise will continue considerably longer as they rebuild from yet another disaster as they have for centuries.

Perhaps their motto is "Progress Through Unity" also.

# Wrestlers bash and crash on Soto Cano

By **Spc. Jon Christoffersen**  
*Iguana Editor*

The crowd roared as the big man was hurled toward the board in the corner of the ring, hitting it, it breaks off at its base, allowing the ropes around the ring to fall to the floor.

The breaking of the ring wasn't a boxing match gone horribly wrong, it was professional wrestlers from the World Wrestling Alliance entertaining Soto Cano troops Nov. 6 and 7.

On the two nights, four wrestling matches were held pitting some unknown faces against each other, and also reintroducing some familiar faces from the past.

Former World Wrestling Federation stars, the Bushwackers faced the Head Shrinkers in the final match of both evenings. The second night, the tag-team match was meyham. The four wrestlers totally demolished the ring, and spent most of the match outside of the ring, near the crowd. Chairs and trash cans were both used as weapons, as the wrestlers kept going to the cheers of the assembled crowd.

On more than one occasion, crowd members were challenged to enter the ring to back up the words they shouted at the wrestlers. Cooler heads prevailed as pro-wrestlers were the only ones getting beat.

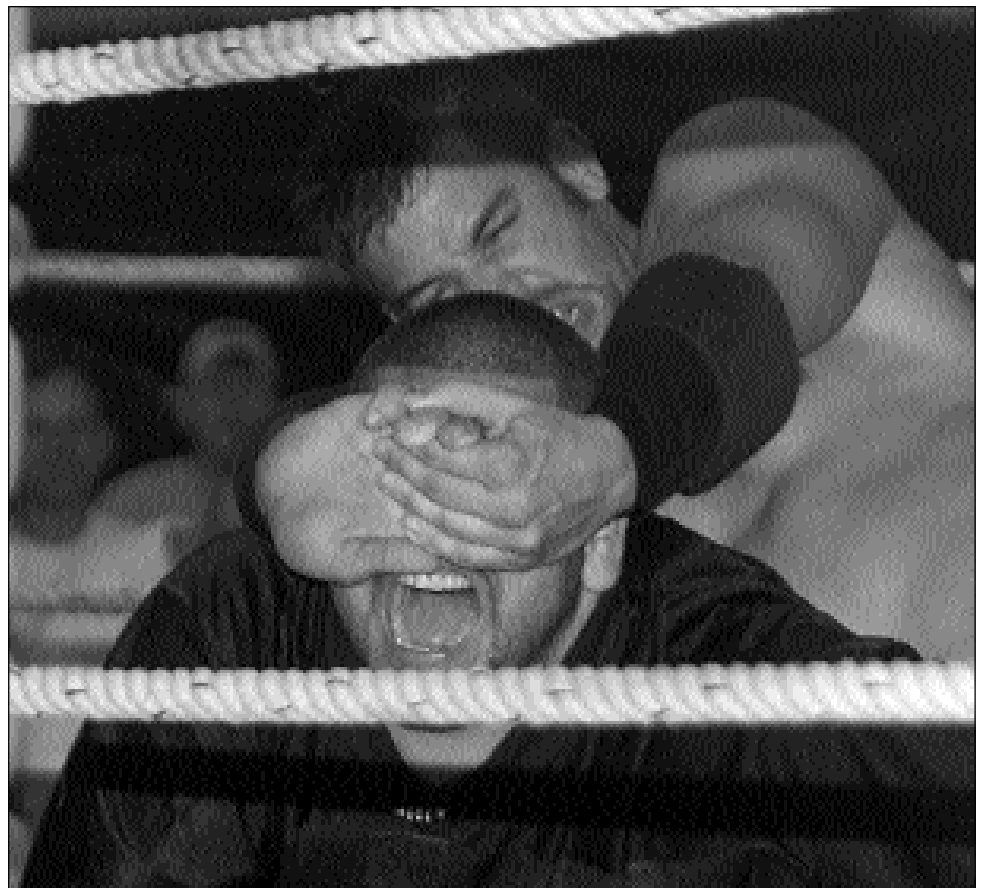


**Bushwacker Luke grips the hair of Headshrinker Sammy during the main event of World Wrestling Alliance show Nov. 7. The wrestling took place inside warehouse R-71 with four matches held on both Nov. 6 and 7.**



*Photos by Spc. Jon Christoffersen*

**Sgt. Carlos Garcia gets into the act by arguing with one of the wrestlers. The crowd got into the action by heckling and cheering the wrestlers.**



**John Badillo gets his face smashed by Danny Gimondo during a wrestling match Nov. 7. Badillo and Gimondo wrestled both nights.**